

FACULTY RESUME

Revised April 2005

Name: Laurie Hodges

Rank: Associate Professor &
Extension Specialist

Graduate Faculty Status: Member (July 23, 1990)

<u>Higher Education:</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Field</u>
B. S.	University of New Hampshire	1972	Botany/Plant Physiology
M. S.	University of Arkansas	1978	Agronomy/Weed Science
Ph.D.	Auburn University	1984	Plant Pathology/Soil-Borne Disease

Certified Professional Horticulturist (# 30006) 2001+

Date Joined UNL Faculty: December 1, 1989

Professional Experience:

<u>UNL:</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Dates</u>
	Associate Professor	Lincoln	1989-present

Other:

North Carolina State Univ., Dept. of Horticultural Sciences, Post-doctoral Research Associate, 1988-89.
Asgrow Seed Company/ The Upjohn Company, Technical Extension Associate, Vegetable Division, 1984-88
Auburn Univ., Plant Diagnostic Lab, Assistant Diagnostician, 1984
Auburn Univ., Dept. of Botany, Plant Pathology & Microbiology, Teaching Assistant, 1980-83
Lilly Research Labs/Eli Lilly & Co., Associate Plant Physiologist, 1978-80
Univ. of Arkansas, Agronomy Dept., Research Assistant, 1974 -78

Departmental Assignment(s)

Extension:	65%	Commercial Vegetable Production, Cut Flower Production in High Tunnels
Research:	35%	Minimizing environmental stress through cultural practices for improved vegetable production

Program Activities

Since 2002, research emphasis is on cut flower production in unheated high tunnels (plastic covered hoop houses with roll-up sides for ventilation) as part of a multi-state USDA-IFAFS project on the use of high tunnels in the central plains. Complementary field plantings are made and include native or adapted plants that may have market potential as specialty cut flowers. Additional research focus is on characterization of the microclimate in high tunnels under the climatic conditions of the Northern Great Plains.

Prior to 2002, my research focus was on the effect of wind on vegetable production and physiology. Project was initiated in 1991 with muskmelon and the effect of anti-transpirants on stand establishment. Cabbage project initiated in 1992, snap beans in 1994, sweet corn in 1995, peppers in 1996, broccoli in 1997. Insect dynamics in shelterbelt agro-ecosystems with emphasis on cucumber beetle populations. Asparagus production was also under investigation for improved yield and quality. Organic insect control in sweet corn and broccoli was evaluated for practical application. Cabbage production for yield, quality, nutritional value, color, and pungency as affected by microclimate conditions in sheltered and unprotected environments. Improved onion production practices for Nebraska.

Extension emphasis is to provide support for direct marketers selling through farmers' markets and the growth toward wholesale markets. Technical information on production and marketing is sent to producers by direct mail and electronically. Managers of the 55-plus farmers' markets in the state also regularly receive appropriate and timely information by direct mail and electronically. I am part of the steering committee for the yearly Great Plains Regional Vegetable Conference and coordinate the cut flower sessions.

Awards and Honors:

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, 1992
Pi Alpha Xi, Horticulture Honor Society, 1991
Outstanding Young Women of America, 1979
Gamma Sigma Delta, Agriculture Honor Society, 1979
University of New Hampshire Graduate Tuition Scholarship, 1973-1974
Graduation Cum Laude, University of New Hampshire, 1972
Letter of Commendation, National Merit Scholar Program, 1968
National Science Foundation/American Univ. Program for High Ability High School Students (Goddard Space Flight Center), 1967

Narrative:

The dry facts are above. I grew up in suburban Maryland on three acres with three sheep, a dog, a parakeet, and various yearly discoveries (frogs, toads, snakes, preying mantis, turtles, etc.). It was rural woods and farmland when I was small but developed rapidly, very similar to the situation around Lincoln now. I always liked being outdoors and plants, although I thought I'd become an occupational therapist because my best friend lost the use of her legs to polio. When I went to college, there were too many natural science courses I wanted to take, so I changed my major freshman year and I've never looked back.

In my extension responsibilities in Nebraska, I work with commercial vegetable growers to improve production and marketing practices. I also respond to inquiries regarding commercial herb production and commercial specialty cut flowers. I have lived in eight states and traveled extensively. My introduction to commercial agriculture began when I moved to Arkansas to work for the University in weed control research for small fruit and vegetable crops. I was the first "Easterner" they'd had at the lab. I did on-farm herbicide research for the university, commercial small fruit and vegetable growers, nursery plant producers, food processors, and several producers of ornamental crops. I also have experience with several agronomic crops. While employed as a technical representative for the vegetable seed division of Asgrow Seed Company, I worked closely with large commercial growers throughout the southeastern U.S. to evaluate production and market acceptance of potential new vegetable varieties. Through professional travel, I have visited several commercial herb farms across the U.S. I am a part of the Herb, Spice, and Medicinal Plants Working Group and the Vegetable Crop Management Working Group in the American Society for Horticultural Science, my professional organization. Through all this, I have learned how various market systems function, which is critical for success in diversified, high-value crop production. There are many opportunities for high-value crop production in Nebraska, with proximity to markets and good natural resources available.